

MINUTES

Purpose: Engage Okaloosa County community members in a health improvement process through an open, two-way dialogue to reduce infant mortality and racial disparities related to infant and maternal health outcomes.

Attendees: Emily Pickens, Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County (DOH-Okaloosa); Jennifer Wilhelm, DOH-Okaloosa; Donna Burns, DOH-Okaloosa; Bethany Guillory, Healthy Start Coalition of Okaloosa and Walton Counties (HSOW); Miranda Smolen, HSOW; Teresa Ryan, Northwest Florida State College; Crystal Harrison, Homelessness and Housing Alliance; Chris Hawkins, CDAC Behavioral Healthcare; Claudia Chatman, Healthy Families Okaloosa and Walton Counties; Airykka Lasley, Head Start Okaloosa County; ChanDrieka Robinson, Head Start Okaloosa County.

Opening – Emily Tash

- Jennifer Wilhelm opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
- Emily Pickens reviewed the meeting's purpose and agenda. She also shared the results from the Community Engagement Survey from the previous meeting.
 - Jennifer shared the survey suggestion to create a directory of meeting attendees. The group agreed. Photos should be emailed to HealthyOkaloosa@flhealth.gov.
- Minutes from the January 12, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved.
- Emily shared updates from the Substance Use Strategy meeting.
 - Attendees determined that the OCHIP Champions will meet quarterly to share progress updates across OCHIP groups to foster collaboration.
 - Additionally, Emily will share monthly emails that include dates of all OCHIP groups for all those interested in attending other group meetings. The [DOH webpage](#) has also been updated to list OCHIP meeting information including minutes, upcoming meetings, and updates.

Action Plan Updates – Ardelle Bush and Crystal Harrison

- Bethany Guillory shared an update on the Fetal Infant Mortality Review Community Action Group (FIMR CAG).
 - The group met for the second time on March 8th to review infant mortality cases in Okaloosa and Walton counties. Findings will be shared with the OCHIP group at the next meeting.
 - Miranda Smolen continues to deliver resources to local providers, including educational materials from Drug Free America.
- Emily shared she and Jennifer will order Tobacco Free Florida resources for distribution at the World's Greatest Baby Shower.
 - She also shared the Recipe for a Healthy Baby PowerPoint presentation is still being approved. Once this is completed, DOH-Okaloosa will share with Healthy Start to place as a resource for moms and other caregivers to access.

- The group discussed plans to promote maternal advocacy. Bethany shared the challenges of Lunch and Learns with providers. Healthy Start will continue to share maternal advocacy education materials with providers and will work to include a bigger emphasis on the topic at the World's Greatest Baby Shower.
 - Chris Hawkins shared the Women's Intervention Services & Education (WISE) and Family Intervention Services (FIS) programs are still in place. They provide services to postpartum parents and could benefit from these resources.
- Bethany shared Healthy Start continues to support breastfeeding efforts. Lactation consultant services are still available without charge through one local provider.
 - Their Fatherhood Mentoring Program is now staffed, and their doula services are in progress. More information will be shared at the next meeting for updates.
- Jennifer shared DOH-Okaloosa has purchased advertising for the Florida Breastfeeding Friendly Employer and Child Care awards. Analytics from the ads will be shared.
- Lynn Wadsworth shared she is resuming birth control outreach efforts in the jail. Women in the jail can receive birth control onsite or ask to be taken to DOH-Okaloosa's Crestview clinic to receive care. These efforts stopped during the pandemic.

Action Items – Ardelle Bush and Crystal Harrison

- Jennifer shared the Maternal and Child Health Social Media toolkit with the group. It includes infographics on a variety of topics like safe sleep, mental health, vaccinations, oral health, literacy, and more.
 - The group is encouraged to share via their social media channels and with other partners to promote. Jennifer will share the toolkit via email.
 - Members suggested including Healthy Families, the Early Learning Coalition, Children's Advocacy Center, Bridgeway, Head Start, and pregnancy and birthing centers as well.

Open Discussion – All

- Bethany shared the World's Greatest Baby Shower will be on April 27th from 5:00 to 8:00 PM at the Destin Fort Walton Beach Convention Center. The event is for pregnant women and women who have recently had a baby. They need volunteers, sponsors, and exhibitors. [Click here](#) to learn more and register.
- Crystal Harrison invited the group to attend the Homelessness and Housing Alliance Stakeholder Meeting on April 18th at 11:00 a.m. at Warriors Hall (201 Stillwell Blvd Crestview, FL).
- Emily announced the [Okaloosa County Resources Fair](#) is on April 4th from 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Trinity United Methodist Church in Fort Walton Beach. The purpose of the event is to have on-site services readily available for residents to utilize or sign-up for.
- Teresa Ryan invited all to the Crisis Aid for Littles and Moms (CALM) Spring Fundraiser on April 15th at 5:00 p.m. at Christ Our Redeemer Catholic Church located at 1028 White Point Road in Niceville. Funds will be used to build condos to house those in need.



Healthy Moms and Babies OCHIP Group Meeting | Healthy Start Fetal Infant Mortality Review Community Action Group (CAG)
Northwest Florida State College Building 400 Room 301
100 E College Blvd Niceville, FL 32578
March 9, 2023 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Closing – Emily Pickens

- Emily thanked attendees for participating and asked them to complete the meeting evaluation form to provide feedback.

Next Meeting – Thursday, May 11th at 3:00 PM at Northwest Florida State College

Action Items	Owners	Deadline	Status
Order TFF pregnancy and smoking, vaping, and/or marijuana use educational tools	Emily Pickens	Next meeting	Not started
Invite new partners required for FIMR CAG	Ardelle Bush	Next meeting	In progress
Invite new members from non-agency partners (i.e. mom groups, La Leche)	Jennifer Wilhelm	Next meeting	Not started
Share Recipe for a Healthy Baby PowerPoint	Emily and Jennifer	ASAP	Not started
Send photo for directory to HealthyOkaloosa@flhealth.gov	ALL	ASAP	Not started